1   1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing links to remotely located information in a

2   network of remotely connected computers, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

3   a)   associating a shorthand link to each of a plurality of uniform resource locators

4   (URLs) <u>by</u>

5   <u>i)</u>   <u>requesting registration of a URL;</u>

6   <u>ii)</u>   <u>selecting an unused key; and</u>

7   <u>iii)</u>   <u>pairing said selected key with said URL as a shorthand link;</u>

8   b)   logging associated shorthand links in a registry database;

9   c)   searching said registry database for a shorthand link associated with an URL

10   responsive to selection of said shorthand link; and

11   d)   for each found said shorthand link, fetching said associated URL.

1   2. (Canceled)

1   3. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~2~~ <u>1</u>, wherein each key-URL pair is entered in

2   the registry database.

1   4. (Original) A method as in claim 3, wherein said fetched associated URL is presented to a

2   requestor, said requestor having selected said shorthand link.

1   5. (Original) A method as in claim 3, wherein said fetched associated URL is presented to a

2   requestor, said requestor having provided the paired key of the key-URL pair.

1 6. (Original) A method as in claim 5, wherein an error message is returned whenever a

2 requestor provides a key not paired with a URL.

1 7. (Original) A method as in claim 5, wherein when a provided key not associated with a

2 URL is identified as corresponding to a key in a key-URL pair, presenting the identified URL

3 to said requestor.

1 8. (Currently Amended) A method of providing links to remotely located information in a

2 network of remotely connected computers, said method comprising the steps of:

3   a)   associating a shorthand link to each of a plurality of files at a remotely

4   connected location by

5   i)   creating a list of files at said remotely connected location; and

6   ii)   selecting and associating an unused key with each listed file;

7   b)   indexing shorthand links and associated files;

8   c)   searching said index for a shorthand link associated with one of said plurality

9   of files responsive to selection of said shorthand link; and

10   d)   for each shorthand link found, fetching the associated indexed file.

1 9. (Canceled)

1 10. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 9 8, wherein said fetched file is presented to

2 a requestor, said requestor having selected said shorthand link.

1   11. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~9~~ <u>8</u>, wherein said fetched file is presented to

2   a requestor, said requestor having provided the key associated with the fetched file.

1   12. (Original) A method as in claim 11, wherein an error message is returned whenever a

2   requestor provides a key not associated with a file.

1   13. (Original) A method as in claim 11, wherein when a key not associated with a file is

2   identified as corresponding to a key associated with a file, providing the file associated with

3   the identified key to said requestor.

1　　14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for providing links to remotely

2　　located information in a network of remotely connected computers, said computer program

3　　product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code

4　　thereon, said computer readable program code comprising:

5　　　　computer readable program code means for associating a shorthand link to each of a

6　　　　　　plurality of uniform resource locators (URLs) <u>including</u>

7　　　　　　<u>computer readable program code means for requesting registration of a URL;</u>

8　　　　　　<u>computer readable program code means for selecting an unused key; and</u>

9　　　　　　<u>computer readable program code means for pairing said selected key with said</u>

10　　　　　　<u>URL as a shorthand link;</u>

11　　　　computer readable program code means for registering associated shorthand links in a

12　　　　　　database;

13　　　　computer readable program code means for searching said database for a shorthand

14　　　　　　link associated an URL responsive to selection of said shorthand link; and

15　　　　computer readable program code means for fetching any found said associated URL.

1　　15. (Canceled)

1　　16. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim ~~15~~ <u>14</u> further

2　　comprising:

3　　　　computer readable program code means for maintaining said database of registered

4　　　　　　key-URL pairs.

1   17. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 16 further comprising:

2   computer readable program code means for presenting an URL to a requestor

3   responsive to said requestor selecting an associated shorthand link.

1   18. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 16 further comprising:

2   computer readable program code means for presenting an URL to a requestor

3   responsive to said requestor providing a corresponding paired key.

1   19. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 18 further comprising:

2   computer readable program code means for determining whether a provided key is a

3   paired key; and

4   computer readable program code means for indicating an error whenever said

5   provided key is determined not to be a paired key.

1   20. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 18 further comprising:

2   computer readable program code means for determining whether a provided key is a

3   paired key;

4   computer readable program code means for determining whether said provided key

5   corresponds to a paired key whenever said provided key is determined not to

6   be a paired key; and

7   computer readable program code means for presenting an URL paired with said

8   corresponding identified key.

1   21-26. (Canceled)